

# Museum Times

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## Stay at Home and Visit the Museums

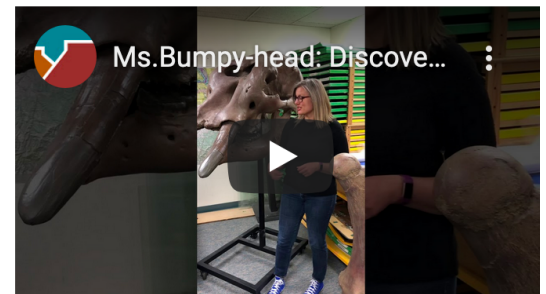


*Matt Darling talks about the origins of Cross Orchards, and gives the viewer a quick history of how it came to be in its modern form today.*

We are fortunate to have a wealth of knowledge within each Museum site, and the videos clearly show that in their condensed virtual tour format. Whether you haven't visited Dinosaur Journey in a while or want to see a new apple tree being planted, the videos on the Museums of Western Colorado's YouTube channel will have you covered. With new videos being published weekly, there is something for everyone to learn. Subscribe to our YouTube channel to be the first to see new videos, or make sure to follow us on Facebook or Instagram to be notified as well.

Curator of Education Stephanie Lukowski has also been hard at work while we've been closed to provide online exhibits for each site. The online exhibits range in subject and interactivity. You can take a virtual walking tour of Downtown Grand Junction and see photos of buildings throughout history, and also visit an exhibit about the historical railroad lines in the state's history. Lukowski has also been bringing District 51 social studies and science lessons to the Museum's website, which are available online along with exhibits through the "learn" tab at [www.museumofwesternco.com](http://www.museumofwesternco.com). ■

When the Museums made the decision to close, we had a short week to prepare. Facing an undetermined amount of time closed, we knew we would want to provide the Museums to people in any way we could. Turning to what was readily available, we recorded several Museum talks with a handheld cell phone, and the top of mind expertise of our Curators. Though the videos lack a certain sheen now prevalent among amateur videographers, they do not lack interesting information.



*Stephanie Lukowski talks about the unparalleled Ice Age discovery in a 2009 Snowmass dig. She also discusses some of the unique characteristics of the animals found at that time.*



*Dave Bailey talks about the Little Bookcliff Railway's short yet eventful stint in Grand Valley's history.*

S a f e r a t H o m e E d i t i o n

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The Museums have been closed since Monday, March 23rd, and they will continue to be closed for at least a little while longer. The staff and Curators at the Museums are wishing you safety and health during these unprecedented times. We cannot wait until we are able to gather, travel, and learn with you all once again. The staff at the Museums have been working mostly from home, like so many of us, but the artifacts and collections know no time or pandemic, and regular checks on their safety and condition need to be made.

At one recent security check, Dave Bailey and myself were reflecting on the nature of this time. Dave reminded me that history is happening all the time, and right now is no different. Fear and uncertainty often accompany historical events, and right now is no different. This allowed me to consider the Museums and their place in these historical events. Along with the events that shape the stories we tell about history, are the stories about how we as humans recovered and reconciled with what happened.

Right now is no different.

The Museums are here to gather, record, and display historical events in order to enrich and educate. We are going to be taking in artifacts and images from the historical events happening around us today and preserving them for the future. We are also going to be working hard to find solutions to the events we have had to cancel or postpone. Your generous support and membership will ensure we are able to continue to do this for years to come. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you soon. ■

## The Museum's Place

*Libbie Early*  
Marketing Specialist





## Remembering our Friend



*Pictured: Harold Bollan, preparing the Bollan Stegasaurus he found in Rabbit Valley, and the Museum collected.*

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our colleague, Mr. Harold Bollan. The Museums had the privilege of working with Harold on many projects throughout the years. With a passion for fossils and their preparation, Harold oversaw the paleo labs at the Dinamation International Society in Grand Junction, where he worked to prepare numerous amazing fossil specimens, including the first definitive therizinosaur from North America. Working side by side with the Museums of Western Colorado, in 1987, he saw the collection of the Bollan *Stegosaurus* from Rabbit Valley - a 40% complete skeleton with exceptional preservation. Over his career he spent countless hours working with paleontologists and volunteers in both the lab and the field. Harold possessed a wealth of experience and knowledge in fossil preparation. As a dear friend, he will be missed, and we are honored he chose to spend his time and wisdom with us.

## Victory Gardens, Then and Now

This year, with supermarket shelves emptier than we are accustomed to, many folks have tried to grow their own food for the first time. At Cross Orchards Historical Site, in one of the many outdoor exhibits is a Victory Garden, referencing the war effort during World War II. During the 1940s, the government encouraged citizens to grow food in their own gardens, so the bulk of food from the agricultural system could be sent overseas. At Cross, volunteer Kathy Kimbell is the resident master gardener and she has been hard at work getting the beds ready for the first round of planting this year. We enjoy such a rich agricultural tradition here in the Grand Valley, we may not need to grow our own food like they did in the 1940s, but it is a wonderful way to interact with nature, get some fresh air, and some exercise. So, if you're gardening this year, for the first time, or are a seasoned gardener, we want to see what you are growing! Post pictures of your garden on Facebook or Instagram and use the hashtag **#victoryathome** or tag the Museums in your post. We'll also be posting our Victory Garden updates on Cross Orchards Facebook page, so follow along! ■



*The victory garden waiting to be planted at Cross Orchards in front of the 1940s house.*

**Museums of Western Colorado**

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[www.museumofwesternco.org](http://www.museumofwesternco.org)

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## Events

**Cross Orchard's Farmers Market** will begin with safety modifications on **Saturday June 13th!** We are excited to provide a market where families can connect with and buy directly from area farmers. This year the market will look a bit different. The ride along train will run, and there will still be fresh local food to buy; but we will be making some changes in order to ensure proper social distancing and sanitation can happen. The Museums are also working on how to modify or change other events happening throughout the rest of the year. We love connecting with the community through events, and want to ensure we can do it safely. Please see our website for the most up to date information on the events happening this year.

## Membership

While the Museums remain temporarily closed due to COVID-19, we are asking for your continued support throughout this time. Once we have determined the final length of the closure, we will extend all active memberships to compensate our members for the time the museums were closed. Ensuring you are able to enjoy your membership benefits to their full extent is important to us!

We will continue to send out membership expiration notices, and hope you will consider renewing in order to support the year-round work the museums do to preserve our scientific and cultural history.

**Donate Today!**

**Check the Museum's website for the most up to date information**

**[www.museumofwesternco.com](http://www.museumofwesternco.com)**